



UCKFIELD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Acting Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1944



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UCKFIELD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944.

The Crude Death Rate is 14.11 as compared with 14.58 for the previous year and with 11.6 for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 29.4, which compares with 46.0 for the country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Every effort was made during the year to persuade parents to accept immunisation for their children, and the procedure adopted is set out below.

A complete card index system ensures that every child up to fifteen years of age is recorded, particulars of births being obtained from the Registrar and checked by lists of the "under fives" from the Food Office. The cards are kept in containers, each parish having a separate container, and this facilitates arrangements for the children attending clinics in the various villages. Every parent, on the child's first birthday, receives a birthday card and an explanatory leaflet with a stamped acceptance card enclosed for return. Lists of those who do not reply or refuse are sent to the district nurses, who then visit and endeavour to obtain the necessary acceptance. The W.V.S. have also given valuable service in visiting parents in cases where the district nurse has been unable to attend.

The same procedure is adopted for new entrants into the district.

An endeavour is made to hold clinics every term in each village, parents being notified accordingly. Clinics are held at the elementary schools or at convenient halls. The local general practitioner attends and is paid at the rate of 3/- per injection.

The procedure is similar for school children, each school having a separate container. A complete list of children is obtained from the head teacher, and every term the list is revised by obtaining particulars of entrants and leavers. Parents whose children have not been immunised receive the explanatory leaflet and are visited if they do not accept.

The prophylactic used is A.P.T., the dosage being .3 ccm, followed by the same dose four weeks later.

Every parent is given the opportunity of having her child Schick tested three to six months after the second injection. In addition, every inoculated child is re-tested on entering school unless the inoculation and test has been carried out during the previous twelve months.

In order to ensure uniformity, all testing is carried out by one general practitioner, Dr. W. B. Adam, who attends at clinics arranged by this office.

My best thanks are due to the general practitioners and to Dr. Adam for their helpful co-operation in this work and for their unfailing attendance at the clinics, and also to the district nurses for visiting and persuading parents to have their children immunised.

During the year 773 children were immunised and 1,081 were Schick tested. At the 31st December, 1944, there were 2,017 children in the one to five years group and 87 per cent. had been immunised. In the five to fifteen years group there were 4,603 children and 89 per cent. had been immunised.

It is pleasing to record that not a single case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

SCABIES.

Scabies is not notifiable in this district, but, as formerly, we obtain some appreciation of the incidence of the disease from the records of cases treated by the district nurses and from the actual cases referred to the department for treatment by the local medical practitioners.

The proposals outlined in last year's report to provide three Cleansing Centres to cover the whole district were not carried out, as the Sick Bay at St. Denys, Rotherfield, was closed in September and the County authorities withdrew their permission to use the Clinic for this purpose, presumably owing to the many other purposes for which the Clinic was required.

So far as public treatment is concerned, we are dependent on the Cleansing Station at East Grinstead. This involves transportation and, owing to the distance from the southern areas of the district, is not ideal for that purpose.

The number of cases treated during the year is as follows:—

Treated at St. Denys as " in-patients "	...	...	...	72
" " " " " out-patients "	...	...	...	17
				—
				89
Treated by District Nurses	...	...	...	47
" " Cleansing Station, East Grinstead...	...	...	...	36
				—
				172
				—

In all cases brought to our notice, inspection of all members of the household is carried out by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Where satisfactory conditions exist, such as a bath and hot water, the entire family of the infected household is treated by the district nurse.

Where domiciliary conditions are not satisfactory, the cases and contacts are taken by Civil Defence ambulance to East Grinstead and treated there.

There is reason to think, from the actual number of cases brought to our notice, that the incidence of the disease is slowly declining, and this is to be expected now that living conditions are becoming normal.

It is also evident that the severity of the cases is much less. Superadded pustular infections are now quite rare.

We must attribute this to careful school inspection by the Nurses, as a result of which cases are brought under treatment at an earlier stage, and also to the efficacy of the modern form of treatment.

HOUSING.

In May, 1944, Circular 64/44 was received from the Minister of Health, together with a copy of the Third Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse.

The Report, a comprehensive survey of the whole field of local authority housing in the rural areas of England and Wales, recommended means for remedying the defects in housing administration in order to bring all rural housing up to proper standards within a reasonable period of years. The Committee made two main recommendations: one, the establishment of Joint County Committees, and the other that a comprehensive survey of housing conditions should be carried out as soon as possible.

The Minister accepted these recommendations and requested Rural District Councils to give them their immediate attention. In this County a Committee, consisting of members of the County Council and the Rural District Councils, was formed and held its first meeting in October. A Standards Sub-Committee

was formed, with the object of framing a uniform standard of fitness for existing houses, your Medical Officer of Health being appointed Chairman of this Committee. The Recommendations were submitted to a Technical Committee consisting of Officers of all the Councils, and, with minor amendments, submitted to the main Committee. The report is fully set out in Appendix 1.

The survey in this district was commenced in August, the staff available being the Senior Sanitary Inspector and two District Sanitary Inspectors, and as it was obvious that the survey could not be carried out within a reasonable time, the Council, towards the latter part of the year, appointed an additional Sanitary Inspector and a non-technical assistant. Early in 1945 a further non-technical assistant was engaged.

The non-technical assistants accompany the sanitary inspectors and help with the measuring-up of the rooms and windows and also draw a sketch plan of the house for reference. This appointment is a new venture, but has proved its usefulness, as it has been found that a sanitary inspector is able to inspect over 20 per cent. more houses when he has the help of this assistant.

The Minister requested that houses inspected be placed in one of five categories, and these are described below:—

- Category 1. Fit in all respects.
- Category 2. Minor defects.
- Category 3. Major defects but repairable at a reasonable cost.
- Category 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
- Category 5. Unfit and beyond repair at a reasonable cost.

NOTE.—It was decided that every house inspected should be placed in Categories 1, 2, 3 or 5, and that Category 4 would comprise a list of houses which could be dealt with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, taken from the other four categories.

It was suggested that houses likely to fall in Categories 1 and 2 be not inspected at the present time.

There are over 11,000 houses in this district, and it was estimated that at least 4,000 houses would require to be inspected. Up to the 31st December, 1944, 460 houses had been inspected and recorded in detail, and the following table shows the categories into which these houses were placed, together with the parishes in which they occurred:—

PARISH.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	TOTALS.
Buxted ...	—	—	6	1	2	9
Crowborough ...	2	3	7	—	—	12
Danehill ...	—	—	27	—	1	28
Fletching ...	—	—	12	—	9	21
Forest Row ...	—	2	4	1	1	8
Framfield ...	—	—	38	—	—	38
Frant ...	—	—	22	2	4	28
Hadlow Down ...	—	1	3	1	8	13
Hartfield ...	—	—	11	6	14	31
Isfield ...	—	—	3	4	2	9
Little Horsted ...	—	—	3	2	—	5
Maresfield ...	—	—	19	2	10	31
Mayfield ...	3	2	31	4	4	44
Rotherfield ...	2	—	12	1	5	20
Uckfield ...	2	1	50	—	2	55
Wadhurst ...	—	—	58	7	4	69
Withyham ...	—	—	23	4	12	39
TOTAL ...	9	9	329	35	78	460

The main defects in the 329 houses placed in Category 3 are summarised below:—

1.	Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
2.	Inadequate light and ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
3.	Unsatisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
4.	Unsatisfactory drainage and sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
5.	Low ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
6.	General external and internal dilapidations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
7.	Unsatisfactory washing arrangements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
8.	Defective or inadequate paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
9.	Inadequate food storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
10.	Unsatisfactory brick and concrete floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
11.	Staircase—no handrail or natural light	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92

With regard to houses placed in category 5 the following are the main defects:—

1. Bad arrangement on site.
2. Bad internal arrangement.
3. Low ceilings.
4. Inadequate light and ventilation.
5. Excessive dampness.
6. Unsatisfactory water supply.
7. Unsatisfactory drainage and sanitary accommodation.
8. General external and internal dilapidations.

It is important that the survey should be completed as soon as possible, but this should not be achieved at the expense of an inadequate inspection of the houses—as has been suggested in some quarters. Every house inspected should be fully recorded, as when labour and materials become available, the remedying of defects will be dealt with much more speedily. The survey, by showing the number of houses unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost in their respective parishes, will also indicate the approximate number of new houses required to rehouse the occupants from those that have to be demolished.

In addition to its usefulness in giving a complete picture of the housing conditions in the district, the survey will be extremely valuable in showing the position relating to water supply and sewage disposal. Councils, at present of course, know which villages have not a piped water supply and main drainage, but the survey will bring to light groups of houses which can and should be linked with the main schemes.

It is hoped that the survey in this district will be completed by July, 1946.

It will be noted, in Appendix 1, that certain items, such as internal water supply, bath and bathroom, etc., are included in a new standard to operate at the end of ten years. Owing to the large amount of sanitary defects and disrepair in existing houses following nearly six years' neglect, it was felt that these required remedying first, but that at the end of ten years it would be reasonable to insist on these additional requirements. In order to secure uniformity throughout the country it would be a great advantage to owners and local authorities if the Ministry of Health were to set a new standard for a fit house now to include the requirements mentioned, but that the operation of such standard should not operate until ten years' time.

WATER SUPPLY.

Out of 11,828 houses in the district, 8,642 have a piped supply—a percentage of 73. Particulars relating to each parish are given in Appendix 3. All are supplied direct to the houses, with the exception of 32 properties situated in two localities, which are temporarily supplied by stand-pipes.

Monthly samples of water are taken for bacteriological examination from all main supplies, namely:—

The East Surrey Water Company.	}	All these supplies are chlorinated.
The East Grinstead Gas and Water Company.		
The East Surrey Water Company.		
The Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.		
The Uckfield Rural District Council.		
The Uckfield Water Company.		

These samples were found to be satisfactory throughout the year, with the exception of the Maresfield supply of the Uckfield Water Company, which on one occasion had a high bacterial count and coliform organisms present. The matter was taken up with the Secretary of the Company and an increased chlorine dosage was recommended. Difficulty was also experienced owing to an excessive amount of iron present in the water, but the problem was solved by eliminating the offending spring supply. Subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, provides for grants to Rural District Councils for the extension of piped supplies to groups of houses and schools, and it is hoped that advantage will be taken of this provision in order that piped water may be provided in the Parishes of Framfield, Danehill and Fletching and for the extension of the main supplies to groups of houses in other parishes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Many parts of the district have a piped water supply and no proper means for the disposal of sewage, resulting in recurring nuisances. Parts of the district principally affected are certain portions of the parishes of Uckfield, Maresfield, Buxted, Isfield and Withyham. In my opinion, sewerage schemes for these areas should be put in hand as soon as conditions permit and where houses are put on piped water, a sewerage scheme should be instituted at the same time.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, transfers to the Minister of Agriculture the functions of local authorities relating to the conditions under which milk is produced on the farm. The “appointed day” for this transference has not yet been announced.

Whilst it is admitted that the supervision of milk production has been inadequate in many rural districts, owing to the large number of cowkeepers on the register and to the lack of sanitary inspectors, the solution of the problem does not appear to me as proposed, but for the Ministry of Health to bring the lagging districts into line with the others. Public Health officials are responsible for the hygienic condition of all foods from the time they are produced until they are delivered to the consumer and I am unable to understand why milk, which is more liable to contamination than other foods, should be regarded differently and removed from the control of the local sanitary authority as far as production is concerned.

During the year each retailer and producer-retailer has been specially visited and given advice concerning building requirements, and the importance of adopting a proper "washing routine" has been particularly stressed.

Dairymen, generally, were responsive to the suggestions made, and in cases where proper sterilisers and boilers were not in use, agreed to use approved sodium hypo-chlorite solutions until such time as proper sterilising equipment could be installed.

A number of the smaller producer-retailers, however, decided in view of the small gallonage involved, to dispose of their retail rounds to dairymen who were properly equipped and consequently, out of a total of 176 retailers, 36 registrations were deleted from the register.

My thanks are due to Colonel D. L. Graham, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and to Mr. A. J. Williams, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for their help and co-operation in the work of the department and to the other members of the staff for their loyal service.

I also wish to express my appreciation of the consideration and support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. STOTT,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112,099 acres
Registrar General's estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,200
Density of population per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.33
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,828
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£303,309
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,207
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.19
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.11
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.4

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.							Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	578	309	269
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	74	62
							714	383	331
Deaths.							Total.	Males.	Females.
							525	247	278

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE UCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	4	12
Other forms of tuberculosis	2	—	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
Influenza	6	5	11
Measles	—	1	1
Cancer	35	40	75
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	29	49	78
Heart Disease	72	79	151
Other Circulatory diseases	2	4	6
Bronchitis	7	18	25
Pneumonia	11	13	24
Other respiratory Diseases	4	3	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2	4
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	7	11	18
Nephritis	4	10	14
Puerperal sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	3	2	5
Congenital Debility	7	3	10
Suicide	—	1	1
Road traffic accidents	3	—	3
Other violent causes	8	4	12
All other causes	33	24	57
Totals	247	278	525

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1944.												
	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.							Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Smallpox	Measles.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.01	4.8	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	—	0.01	7.3	52
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931)	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	—	0.01	4.4	44
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	—	0.00	10.1	61
Uckfield Rural District	19.19	0.48	14.11	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.30	—	0.02	1.4	29.4
Puerperal Sepsis. Other Maternal Causes.												
Maternal Mortality Rates for England & Wales—per 1,000 total Births ... 0.28 1.25												
Maternal Mortality Rates for Uckfield Rural District ... 1.36 1.36												

SANITARY SUPERVISION.

No. of inspections made under the Housing and Public Health Acts ...	1,435
No. of premises other than houses visited under the Public Health Acts	56
Inspections made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	754
Visits to bakehouses	58
,, ,, factories	12
,, ,, butcher's shops and slaughterhouses	253
,, ,, slaughterhouses under the byelaws	11
,, ,, Knacker's yard	4
,, ,, food premises	132
,, ,, shops	7
,, ,, Hop-pickers' lodgings	17
,, in connection with Tents, Vans and Sheds	56
,, ,, ,, ,, infectious diseases	118
,, ,, ,, ,, water supplies	591
,, ,, ,, ,, eradication of bed bugs	9
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, other vermin	28
,, ,, ,, ,, sanitary accommodation at schools	26
,, ,, ,, ,, Civil Defence and Food Decontamination	111
Miscellaneous visits	245
Interviews	192
Number of drain tests carried out	40
Number of water samples taken	193
Number of milk samples taken	263
Number of rooms disinfected	16
Number of preliminary notices served	358
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, complied with	163
Number of statutory notices served	11
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, complied with	13*

* Includes Notices served during previous year.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOP-PICKERS.

Seventeen visits were made to hop-pickers' lodgings during the season. A total of eighty lodgings were provided at the seven farms where imported pickers are employed and the occupants comprised seven males, one hundred and twenty-eight females and seventy-four children.

The following improvements were made to the lodgings as the result of earlier representation :—

Huts repaired	4
New huts provided	5
Huts cleansed or limewashed	80
Earth closets improved	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The inspection of meat at the Ministry of Food's centralised slaughterhouse at Uckfield was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year 6 tons 16 cwts. 1 qr. 12 lbs. of unsound food was surrendered.

Total number of visits to butchers' shops and slaughterhouses	253
Number of visits to slaughterhouses under the Byelaws	11

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed	360	247	1041	2100	199
Number inspected	360	247	1041	1998	199
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	3	4	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	81	2	168	28
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	6	3	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	53	75	4	—	8

Of the 1,041 calves killed, 172 were heifer calves.

Foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered.

193 tins	Meat	...	...	...	...	...	Blown, damaged or de- composed.
202 „	Fish	...	...	...	...	...	„ „ „
1837 „	Milk	...	...	...	...	...	Blown, damaged or rusty
10 „	Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	Blown or damaged
8 „	Soup	...	...	...	...	...	„ „
24 „	Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	„ „
36 „	Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	Blown or damaged. Bomb damage.
230 lbs.	Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	Decomposed or maggoty Bomb damage.
65 lbs.	Tripe	...	...	...	...	...	Decomposed.
253 lbs.	Trimming boneless beef	...	...	...	...	...	„ or mouldy.
709 lbs.	Imported pork	...	...	...	...	...	Decomposed.
8 lbs.	Cooked ham	...	...	...	...	...	„
1 lb.	Ham	...	...	...	...	...	„
6 lbs.	Luncheon meat	...	...	...	...	...	„
198	Meat pies	...	...	...	...	...	„
225 lbs.	Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	„
3 tins	Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	Mouldy.
1 lb.	Nutmeg	...	...	...	...	...	„
4 lbs.	Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	Bomb damage.
16 lbs.	Rice	...	...	...	...	...	„ „
83 lbs.	Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	Mouldy. Bomb damage.

157 lbs.	Butter	...	...	...	...	...	Rancid. Bomb damage.
23 lbs.	Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	Bomb damage.
32 lbs.	Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	...	" "
3 cwts. 18 lbs.	Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	Fouled by mice. Tainted and dirty.
14 cwts. 1 qr.	Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	Fouled by mice. Mouldy and lumpy.
16 dozen	Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	Mouldy.
42 lbs.	Slab cake	...	...	...	...	...	"
6 x 4 lb.	Loaves	...	...	...	...	...	"
15 dozen	Swiss rolls	...	...	...	...	...	Fouled by mice. Mouldy.
137 lbs.	Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	Mouldy or damaged.
6 cwts.	Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	Decomposed.
584 lbs.	Peas	...	...	...	...	...	Maggoty or affected by weevils.
1 cwt.	Lentils	...	...	...	...	...	" "
25 lbs.	Apples	...	...	...	...	...	Rotten.
629 lbs.	Oranges	...	...	...	...	...	"
1 jar	Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	Decomposed and mouldy
313 bottles	Orange juice	...	...	...	...	...	Fermented.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Nine visits were made in connection with the eradication of bed bugs. Three houses were involved and disinfestation was carried out. No further trouble has been experienced.

Disinfestation is carried out by means of "Thermatox" Fumigators, and in very severe cases of infestation the picture rails and skirtings are removed and a blow-lamp used.

The work of disinfestation is supervised by the staff of the Public Health Department.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	820
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	1435
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	502
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	502
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	78
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	507

2.
Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 119
3.
Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a)
Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(2)
Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a)
By owners —

(b)
By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b)
Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

(1)
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2)
Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—

(a)
By owners 13

(b)
By Local Authority in default of owners —

(c)
Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition orders were made —

(2)
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders —

(3)
Number of houses rendered fit following Undertakings given after service of a Time and Place Notice—Sec.II. —
- PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.
- The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:—
- | DISEASE. | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Smallpox | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 64 | 49 | — |
| Erysipelas | 17 | 5 | — |
| Pneumonia | 24 | 3 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 4 | 2 | — |
| Dysentery | 13 | 1 | — |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 4 | 4 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 3 | 1 | — |
| Measles | 172 | 9 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 317 | 3 | 1 |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | 1 | — |
| Malaria | 1 | 1 | — |
| Totals | 621 | 80 | 3 |
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CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 year.	1	2	3	4	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65 years.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever	—	4	1	3	4	28	15	1	3	4	1	—	64
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	8	3	17
Pneumonia	1	—	1	1	—	5	2	—	3	5	4	2	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	5	2	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	13
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles	1	4	6	8	9	98	28	10	7	—	1	—	172
Whooping Cough	12	13	31	14	13	211	17	—	4	—	1	1	317
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Dysentery.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid Fever.	Malaria.	TOTALS.
BUXTED	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	12	—	—	26
CROWBOROUGH	8	9	7	2	—	2	—	2	2	165	—	—	197
DANEHILL ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	19	—	—	28
FLETCHING ...	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	—	14
FOREST ROW ...	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	16
FRAMFIELD ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	22	9	—	—	35
FRANT	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	11
HADLOW DOWN	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	24	2	—	—	28
HARTFIELD ...	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	14	5	1	1	26
ISFIELD	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	4
LITTLE HORSTED	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
MARESFIELD ...	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	40	1	—	—	48
MAYFIELD ...	4	—	3	—	8	—	—	—	31	10	—	—	56
ROTHERFIELD ...	6	1	6	—	—	2	—	—	10	37	—	—	62
UCKFIELD ...	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	31	—	—	52
WADHURST ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
WITHYHAM ...	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	13
TOTALS	64	17	24	4	13	4	1	3	172	317	1	1	621

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
5 	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 	2	5	—	—	2	—	—	—
35 	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
45 	3	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
55 	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 years & upwards	1	2	—	—	2	—	1	—
TOTALS 	10	16	2	5	8	4	2	—

HIGH GROVE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease.	E. Grins. Urban.	Uckfield Rural.	Other Districts.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever	13	41	27	81
Ditto (Observation) ...	2	—	—	2
Diphtheria	1	—	1	2
Ditto (Observation) ...	—	—	2	2
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1	2	—	3
Pneumonia	1	—	1	2
Erysipelas	3	—	—	3
Measles	—	1	4	5
Impetigo	—	1	—	1
Impetigo and Scabies ...	—	1	—	1
Scabies	—	1	—	1
Tonsilitis	2	1	1	4
Mumps	1	—	13	14
Chickenpox	—	2	8	10
Cellulitis	—	1	—	1
T.B. Meningitis	1	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	2
Vincent's Angina	1	1	1	3
Rubella	—	2	18	20
H.S. Throat	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia & Whooping Cough	—	—	1	1
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	8	8
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	1
Typhoid	—	1	—	1
Ditto (Observation) ...	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	26	59	86	171

“ CUTTENS ” AUXILIARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease.	E. Grins. Urban.	Uckfield Rural.	Other Districts.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever	17	8	9	34
Scarlet Fever (Observation) ...	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever Contact	—	2	—	2
Scarlet Fever and Mumps	—	—	1	1
Diphtheria	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria (Observation)	—	—	—	—
Post Diphtheretic Paralysis	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (Observation)	1	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	1	1
Measles	1	6	1	8
Measles (Observation)	—	1	—	1
Contact Measles & Salpingitis	1	—	—	1
Mumps	—	1	4	5
Mumps (Observation)	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	6	5	9	20
Whooping Cough (Observation)	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough and Broncho Pneumonia	1	2	1	4
Whooping Cough and Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	—	1	1
Rubella	3	3	12	18
Rubella with Whooping Cough	—	—	3	3
Bronchitis	—	1	1	2
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	27	27
Dysentery (Observation)	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	4	—	4
Gastritis	—	—	1	1
Dermatitis	—	1	—	1
H.S. Throat	—	1	5	6
Otitis Media	—	1	—	1
Otorrhoea	—	—	1	1
Otorrhoea and Rhinorrhoea	1	—	—	1
Erythema (Admitted with Mother)	—	—	1	1
Strep. Inf. of nose	—	—	1	1
Jaundice	—	2	—	2
Sycosis and mixed inf. of face and scalp	1	—	—	1
Diarrhoea	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	2	—	2
Mumps and Chorea	—	—	1	1
Measles and Broncho Pneumonia	—	1	—	1
Impetigo	1	1	—	2
Pediculosis and Impetigo	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	36	44	83	163

APPENDIX I.

County Committee on Rural Housing.

Report and Recommendations of Standards Sub-Committee.

We have assumed that our terms of reference “to consider and report upon the existing and future standards of housing” must embrace the consideration of every working-class house within the Rural Districts of East Sussex, whether of recent construction or otherwise, and that the standard of housing which we are asked to suggest must have regard to the best working-class houses existing in the County as well as to the poorer types.

This point is very important, since there is a great difference between a standard of fitness based on housing legislation as applied to existing buildings, and a standard of housing in its wider sense, embracing accommodation and amenities.

We therefore recommend that the standard of housing to be ultimately attained should be equal to that provided by the best examples of Council built houses during the inter-war period and complying with the conditions set out in Parts 1 and 2 below.

When a Council has before them a report under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, they should consider not only fitness but also the requirements set out in Part 2 of the report.

We recommend that the survey shall include all houses occupied or of a type suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes, and not exceeding £20 net rateable value. In practice it may be necessary to increase this maximum net rateable value, e.g., in areas adjacent to populous centres, seaside towns, etc., where there is a tendency for high rateable values to be in operation.

We also recommend that particulars of overcrowding be obtained during the survey, in order to bring the overcrowding records up to date.

We discussed in great detail individual items of disrepair and sanitary defects, taking into account the important clause in the Housing Act, 1936, Section 188 (4), which reads as follows:—

“In determining for the purposes of this Act whether a house is fit for human habitation, regard shall be had to the extent, if any, to which by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects the house falls short of the provisions of any bye-laws in operation in the district or of any enactment in any local Act in operation in the district dealing with the construction and drainage of new buildings and the laying out and construction of new streets *or of the general standard of housing accommodation for working classes in the district.*”

Section 188 (1) defines sanitary defects as including “lack of air space or of ventilation, darkness, dampness, absence of adequate and readily accessible water supply or sanitary accommodation or of other conveniences, and inadequate paving or drainage of courts, yards or passages.”

In arriving at conclusions as to the standard of fitness required we were also guided by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, Rural Housing Manual paragraph 23, which is as follows:—

“‘Fit for human habitation’ implies generally that a dwelling should be free from serious dampness, satisfactorily lighted and ventilated, properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposing of slop water, and be in good general repair. It should also have a satisfactory water supply, adequate washing accommodation, facilities for preparing and cooking food, and a well-ventilated store for food.”

Leaving out of account houses which can be dealt with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, we have come to the conclusion *that all working class houses should comply with the requirements enumerated in part I below and that this standard of fitness should operate for a period of ten years.*

PART I.

STANDARD OF FITNESS FOR THE DEMOLITION, RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR OF HOUSES.

[NOTE : The standards suggested may not be strictly in accordance with the byelaws actually in operation in a particular District. Where such is the case, regard should be had to the corresponding provisions in the byelaws actually in operation. In this connection, it will be observed that Section 188 (4) of the Housing Act, 1936, quoted above, speaks of "the provisions of any byelaws in operation in the district."]

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Standard.</i>
1. Adequate Air Space :	
(a) Front :	(1) There shall be provided an open space extending to the boundary, or in the case of a building fronting on to the street to the opposite side of the street, which shall throughout the whole frontage of the building extend to a distance of not less than 24 feet. Provided that, if the building fronts on a street of a less width than 24 feet, the distance may be not less than the width of the street, together with one-half of the difference between the width and 24 feet.
	(2) Any open space provided within the curtilage of the building shall be free from any erection thereon above the level of the ground except a fence or wall not exceeding 7 feet in height, or a portico, porch, step or other like projection from the building, or a gate.
(b) Rear :	There shall be provided an open space exclusively belonging to the dwelling and of an extent not less than 150 square feet.
(c) Ventilation of lowest floors :	Where boarded floors are found to be defective due to inadequate sub-floor ventilation this should be remedied in accordance with the requirements of the building byelaws.
2. Lighting :	The window lighting space in each room should be equal to one-tenth of the floor area.

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Standard.</i>
3. Ventilation :	<p>The house should be provided with adequate means of through ventilation.</p> <p>Every habitable room shall be provided with a window or windows which shall open directly into the external air and —</p> <p>Be so constructed that —</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a total area of not less than one-twentieth of the floor area of the room may be opened ; (2) to the extent of that requirement any sash windows can be opened at the top. <p>In rooms with a low ceiling or low windows ventilation should be improved by additional openings as near ceiling level as possible.</p> <p>All habitable rooms to be provided with secondary means of ventilation, either by means of a properly constructed flue, or by a sufficient aperture or air brick having an unobstructed sectional area of 30 square inches at least.</p>
4. Height of Room :	<p>Where it is impracticable to secure a height of 8 feet in each room, as required by the Model Building Byelaws, the height of any room should not be less than 6 feet 9 inches measured in accordance with the Model Byelaws relating to room height.</p>
5. Paving :	<p>All houses to be required to be provided with a proper path to the front entrance. Yards, passages and approaches to outbuildings, including closet if this is entered or situated externally to the house, to be paved and drained.</p>
6. Dampness :	<p>House to be free from all serious forms of dampness. In this connection the site to conform to the following conditions:—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that the site of the house shall be free from liability of flooding (b) that the subsoil shall be capable of being drained if necessary to prevent dampness in walls or floors (c) that there shall be ready access to the house at all times of the year.

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Standard.</i>
7. Water Supply :	<p>An adequate wholesome supply of water to be provided. Wherever a mains supply is available it shall be direct off the service pipe to an internal tap over the sink.</p> <p>Where water is not obtained from a mains supply, the source must be reasonably accessible and properly protected against all possible pollution or contamination and suitable pumping arrangements should be installed to provide a supply over the sink. Alternatively the approach to the well should be paved.</p> <p>Any tank or cistern constructed or fitted and intended to be used for the storage of rainwater for human consumption shall comply with the Requirements of the Building Byelaws.</p>
8. Sink and Drainage :	<p>Separate sink and drain for each house. Drain shall mean a drain as specified in the Building Byelaws.</p>
9. Washing Accommodation :	<p>Adequate facilities for the boiling and washing of clothes to be provided, and should be in a room not used for living or sleeping purposes.</p>
10. Sufficient and Satisfactory Sanitary Accommodation :	<p>Closet is defined as meaning a water or earth closet.</p> <p>A separate water closet or earth closet should be provided for the exclusive use of each house. The closet must be properly lighted and ventilated. An earth closet should be entered from out-of-doors and a water closet should not be arranged so that it has to be entered directly from a living room. Where closets are situated externally they shall not be sited at a greater distance than 15 feet from the access to the house, and the approach to be paved. Where there is an earth closet and no public scavenging there must be sufficient ground in which to bury the contents.</p>

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Standard.</i>
11. Cooking Arrangements :	Efficient arrangements shall be made for the preparation and cooking of food.
12. Foodstore :	Every dwelling to be provided with a properly constructed, lighted and ventilated foodstore, of a floor space of not less than 10 square feet and of adequate height.
13. Staircase :	If the existing stairs are too steep or are otherwise so badly designed as to be dangerous, they should be re-designed.
(a) Lighting :	Wherever practicable every staircase should be provided with adequate means of natural lighting.
(b) Handrail :	Every staircase should be provided where necessary with a sufficient handrail which shall be properly and securely fixed.
14. Sound Structural Repair :	The dwelling must be in all respects weatherproof ; ceilings and floors to be in all respects sound. Internal and external walls and woodwork to be in a sound condition, all fittings to doors and windows to be in proper working order. Stairs to be in a sound condition. Fire-grates to be in a sound condition.

We should have liked to have included the items enumerated in Part 2 below in our recommendations, but as we have to take into account the general standard of housing at present prevailing in the districts in East Sussex we find ourselves unable to recommend these additions at the present time.

During the next ten years a large number of new houses will be built by local authorities and private enterprise and these houses will embrace the items specified below, as will houses reconditioned and improved under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, so that by the end of this period the general standard will have been so raised that it will then be possible to set a new standard and ask for these requirements in existing houses.

Although we do not consider that local authorities can enforce the provision of the requirements in Part 2 at the present time, every endeavour should be made by the officers of the local authorities to persuade owners to provide some or all of these items.

When obtaining improvements and reconditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts we recommend that the requirements in Part 2 be included in the schedule sent to owners. We wish to point out that the initiative in applying for a grant under these Acts rests with the owner of the cottage, and if the owner fails to recondition (either with or without a grant) the housing authority (the Rural District Council) can buy the cottage, if necessary, by compulsion, and carry out the works themselves.

PART 2.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) An internal water supply.
- (b) Where there is an adequate public or private supply of water and sewerage or adequate private sewage disposal provided, or will be provided within a reasonable time, that a bath and separate bathroom be required.
- (c) Domestic hot water system.
- (d) An internal water closet in lieu of any other external type.
- (e) Separate wash-house or scullery.
- (f) Separate coal store.
- (g) Suitable storage accommodation be required for prams, bicycles, garden tools, etc.
- (h) Adequate cupboard accommodation to be provided for utensils, clothing, etc.
- (i) In addition to heating arrangements in living room and kitchen at least one bedroom to be provided with an open fireplace.
- (j) That the front entrance door shall not give direct access to a living room. Where the front entrance door of a house opens directly into a living room an enclosed porch should be constructed to the front of the dwelling house, or if the living room is large enough a suitable vestibule not less than 3 feet 6 inches by 3 feet should be provided together with a properly hung door.
- (k) That secondary means of access shall be provided.
- (l) That the ground immediately adjoining a house shall be at least 6 inches below the level of any floor (other than a cellar or basement floor) for a distance of at least 3 feet from the external walls of the house.
- (m) That separate access to each bedroom be required.
- (n) If the existing stairs are so badly designed as to prevent the taking of furniture to the bedrooms they should be re-designed.
- (o) Endeavour should be made to obtain a room height of 8 feet.
- (p) Where electricity or gas is available, that such forms of artificial lighting be required to be laid on to every habitable room.

Ministry of Health Circular 64/44 sets out five categories into which houses should be classified. These correspond with the provisions of the various Acts under which action can be taken and as defined by us are reproduced below.

Category 1 : “ Satisfactory in all Respects.”

Shall include only those houses which comply in all respects with the standard of fitness recommended in Part I of this report.

Category 2 : “ Minor Defects.”

Shall include those houses requiring minor repairs, e.g., sash cords to windows, new chimney pots, plaster repairs, etc.

Category 3 : “ Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvements.”

Shall include those houses which do not comply with the standard of fitness which we have recommended, and which require repairs of a major character, but which can be brought up to the standard of fitness at an estimated cost of not more than 50 per cent. of the estimated value of the house, after the completion of the works.

“ The estimated value ” of a house shall be based upon the return which the owner would be entitled to receive under the housing legislation after all the improvements have been completed.

Category 4 : “ Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.”

Shall include houses in categories 1, 2, 3 and 5 which can be reconditioned or improved under these Acts. Schedule to owners shall include the items enumerated under the heading “ Additional Requirements ” in Part 2.

We found ourselves in some difficulty with regard to this category, i.e., those houses appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, owing to the fact that a house which could be improved or reconditioned under these Acts would also fall within one of the other four categories. We have therefore decided that every house inspected be placed in categories 1, 2, 3 or 5 and that category 4 will comprise a list of houses which could be dealt with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, taken from the other four categories.

Category 5 : “ Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable expense.”

Shall include those houses which cannot be brought up to the standard of fitness which we have recommended at a cost of less than 50 per cent. of the value of the house after the completion of the works.

We are in full agreement with the pronouncement in the Appendix to Circular 64/44 that it will be impracticable in the first instance to make a detailed examination of houses known to fall into Categories 1 and 2, and we accordingly recommend that no detailed inspection of these houses be carried out at the present time.

We have also considered the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1762 and recommend that in all cases where action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, is contemplated in respect of a house on the architectural or artistic merits or historical value of which any question may arise the house should be reported on, not only by the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health but should be referred to a Panel consisting of the President of the South Eastern Society of Architects, the County Architect, the County Planning Officer, and the District Council's Planning Officer. We consider that a decision on this matter is essentially a technical one embracing consideration of questions of architecture and planning, not only as regards the merits of the individual building but also such questions as street pictures and terminal vistas viewed against a general background of local tradition. We feel the Tribunal we suggest to be the best for this particular County, and it would comply with paragraph (4) of Circular 1762 inasmuch as the Panel would be composed of persons on whose opinion and judgment the County may have confidence as qualified to form an opinion on such merits or value. In addition, they would be free from any influence by clients or owners.

We further recommend that where any such house is retained for week-end purposes the owner should be required to give an undertaking not to use it for occupation by the working classes.

We would point out that although agreement on the standard of fitness is important, it is even more important to secure uniformity in the works required to comply with the standard, and we accordingly recommend that this special Sub-Committee be kept in being to consider the application of the standard and the formulation of standard methods of repair and reconstruction where possible.

We desire to bring to the notice of the Joint County Committee that many of the unsatisfactory conditions in Rural areas are due to the erection of houses remote from public services and that in future development planning authorities should endeavour to prevent the erection of houses (except for agricultural purposes) on sites where the public services of water and sewerage cannot be provided.

APPENDIX 2.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following tables show the position with regard to immunisation at the 31st December, 1944:—

One to five years of age in areas.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Percentage immunised.</i>
Blackham	5	100
High Hurstwood	14	100
Little Horsted	7	100
Hartfield	87	96
Withyham	20	95
Mark Cross	17	94
Maresfield	49	92
Forest Row	135	90
Rotherfield	82	90
Buxted	46	87
Mayfield	109	87
Uckfield	242	87
Wadhurst	176	87
Crowborough	403	86
Nutley	59	86
Danehill	59	85
Groombridge	52	85
Five Ashes	24	83
Cousley Wood	22	82
Piltdown	20	80
Fairwarp	18	78
Fletching	40	77
Framfield	52	77
Frant	53	77
Eridge	20	70
Isfield	36	61
Hadlow Down	25	60
Blackboys	26	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,898	86
Being immunised at Drs. Surgeries	119	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,017	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Elementary School Children 5-14 inclusive.

<i>School</i>	<i>No. on Roll.</i>	<i>Percentage immunised.</i>
Buxted	99	99
Withyham	39	97
Blackboys	82	96
Uckfield	256	95
Danehill	119	95
Wadhurst	221	95
Five Ashes	37	95
Forest Row	274	94
Maresfield	77	93
Rotherfield	151	91
Fletching	55	91
Mayfield	207	90
Cousley Wood	40	90
Hadlow Down	49	90
Framfield	87	90
Whitehill	322	90
Hartfield	87	90
Groombridge	191	88
Blackham	26	88
Isfield	50	86
Sir Henry Fermor's	262	86
Jarvis Brook	41	85
Eridge	78	85
Fairwarp	75	84
Frant	83	83
Tidebrook	41	83
Little Horsted	29	83
Nutley	134	79
High Hurstwood	38	79
St. John's	62	79
Mark Cross	36	78
Heron's Ghyll	24	75
Hammerwood	32	59
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,404	89
Private Schools	639	85
Over 5 years, not at School	351	91
Over 14 years, left School	115	81
Being immunised at Doctors' Surgeries	20	100
At School outside Uckfield Rural District	74	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,603	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>

APPENDIX 3.
WATER SUPPLIES.
Position with regard to piped water supply.

PARISH.	Total No. of Houses.	No. of houses having main water supply.
BUXTED	584	453
CROWBOROUGH ...	2032	1970
DANEHILL	351	—
FOREST ROW	1013	706
FLETCHING	297	20
ISFIELD	153	103
LITTLE HORSTED ...	65	12
FRAMFIELD	497	20
FRANT	415	194
HADLOW DOWN ...	259	165
HARTFIELD	655	367
MARESFIELD	836	488
MAYFIELD	862	760
ROTHERFIELD	819	672
UCKFIELD	1089	1063
WADHURST	1110	991
WITHYHAM	791	658
TOTALS	11,828	8,642

APPENDIX 4.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification Rates per 1,000 of the Population.

NOTIFICATIONS.	England and Wales,	Uckfield Rural District.
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.02
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.10
Scarlet Fever	2.40	1.72
Whooping Cough ...	2.49	8.52
Diphtheria	0.58	0.00
Erysipelas	0.29	0.45
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.62
Pneumonia	0.97	0.64

